



**Schedule at a Glance**  
**20th Annual Tennessee Basic Economic Development Course**  
**May 4 – May 7, 2026 (Nashville)**

**Monday, May 4 (CT)**

**Drury Plaza Nashville Downtown**

**Moderator**

**Jill Osborne, TCEcD, TNECD**

9:30 – 10:00	<b>Registration &amp; Check-In</b>	<b>Belle Meade Meeting Room</b> Lower Level “LL”
10:00 – 10:25	<b>Welcome &amp; Introductions/TBEDC Orientation</b>	<b>Paul Jennings, PhD</b> UT CIS  <b>Tintin Czach, TCEcD</b> UT CIS
10:25 – 11:45	<b>Trends in Economic Development</b>	<b>Laith Wardi, CEcD</b> Gem City Growth Strategies
11:45 – 12:45	<b>Lunch &amp; Networking</b>	
12:45 – 2:45	<b>Business Retention &amp; Expansion</b>	<b>Laith Wardi, CEcD</b> Gem City Growth Strategies
2:45 – 3:00	<b>Team Challenge – Introduction/Explanation</b>	<b>Tintin Czach, TCEcD</b>
3:00 – 3:15	<b>Break</b>	
3:15 – 5:15	<b>Real Estate Development &amp; Reuse</b>	<b>Elliott Cook</b> Retail Strategies  <b>Matt Largen</b> Williamson Chamber
5:15	<b>Wrap Up &amp; Adjourn</b>	
5:30 – 7:30	<b>Opening Reception</b> Sponsored by <b>Middle TN Industrial Development Association (MTIDA)</b>	<b>The Kitchen + Bar</b> 8 <sup>th</sup> Floor (Drury Hotel)

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**Tuesday, May 5 (CT)**

**Drury Plaza Nashville Downtown**

**Moderator**

**Jeff Taylor, TCEcD, Greene County Partnership**

6:00 – 8:00	<b>Full Breakfast</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup> Floor Guest Dining Area</b>
8:00 – 10:00	<b>Small Business &amp; Entrepreneurship</b>	<b>Maureen (Mo) Collins</b> Entrepreneurial Communities
10:00 – 10:15	<b>Break</b>	
10:15 – 12:15	<b>Economic Development Finance</b>	<b>Betsy Knotts</b> Bass, Berry & Sims  <b>David Bradshaw</b> Pinnacle Financial Partners
12:15 – 1:15	<b>Lunch &amp; Networking</b>	
1:15 – 3:15	<b>Education &amp; Workforce Development</b>	<b>Maureen (Mo) Collins</b> Entrepreneurial Communities
3:15 – 3:30	<b>Break</b>	
3:30 – 4:00	<b>Team Challenge – Breakout &amp; Discussion</b>	<b>Course Participants</b>
4:00 – 5:15	<b>Mayors’ Panel</b>	<b>Joe Brooks, TCEcD</b> Mayor, Claiborne County  <b>Julian McTizic, TCEcD</b> Mayor, City of Bolivar  <b>Bob Rial, TCEcD</b> Mayor, Dickson County
5:15	<b>Wrap Up &amp; Adjourn</b>	
6:00	<b>Optional Dinner Gathering</b>	



**Schedule at a Glance**  
**20th Annual Tennessee Basic Economic Development Course**  
**May 4 – May 7, 2026 (Nashville)**

**Wednesday, May 6 (CT)**

**Drury Plaza/501 Commerce/Ryman**

**Moderator**

**Kirby Lewis-Gill, TNECD**

6:00 – 8:00	<b>Full Breakfast</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup> Floor Guest Dining Area</b>
8:00 – 10:00	<b>Managing Economic Development Organizations</b>	<b>Kendrick Curtis, PhD</b> MTIDA
10:00 – 10:15	<b>Break</b>	
10:15 – 12:15	<b>Community Development &amp; Market Research Analysis</b>	<b>Greg Word</b> VisionFirst Advisors
12:15 – 12:45	<b>Walk (4 blocks) to 501 Commerce Building</b> <i>Pick up box lunches upon arrival</i>	<b>501 Commerce</b>
12:45 – 2:45	<b>Marketing &amp; Attraction</b>	<b>Greg Word</b> VisionFirst Advisors  <b>Ryan Egly, TCEcD</b> Lawrenceburg Chamber
2:45 – 3:15	<b>Break/Walk (2 blocks) to Ryman Auditorium</b>	
3:15 – 4:45	<b>Ryman Auditorium Briefing/Self-Guided Tour</b>	
5:00	<b>Return to Drury Plaza Nashville Downtown (Optional)</b>	

**Thursday, May 7 (CT)**

**Drury Plaza Nashville Downtown**

**Moderator**

**Rena Purdy, TCEcD, Wayne County**

6:00 – 8:00	<b>Full Breakfast</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup> Floor Guest Dining Area</b>
8:00 – 10:00	<b>Economic Development Ethics</b>	<b>Greg Lowe, TCEcD</b> TNECD
10:00 – 10:15	<b>Break</b>	



**Center for Industrial Services**  
INSTITUTE *for* PUBLIC SERVICE

10:15 – 12:15	<b>Strategic Planning</b>	<b>Joe Barker</b> SW TN Development District
12:15 – 1:00	<b>Lunch &amp; Networking</b>	
1:00 – 1:30	<b>TBEDC Team Challenge – Breakout &amp; Discussion</b>	<b>Course Participants</b>
1:30 – 1:45	<b>Continuing Your Professional Development</b>	
	<b>TCED Program</b>	<b>Tintin Czach, TCEcD</b> UT CIS
	<b>IEDC CEcD Process</b>	<b>Walt Wood, CEcD</b> SCTDD
	<b>TEDC Membership</b>	<b>Greg Lowe, TCEcD</b> TNECD
1:45 – 2:15	<b>Servant Leadership</b>	<b>Herb Byrd III, PhD</b> UT Institute for Public Service
2:15 – 2:30	<b>Break</b>	
2:30 – 3:45	<b>Team Challenge – Project Presentation</b>	<b>Course Participants</b>
3:45 – 4:00	<b>TBEDC Graduates Group Photo</b>	

**Please remember to complete your daily and overall evaluation forms!**